

BUCKHURST HILL
Urban District Council.

THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
for 1908.

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1908.

I. PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS
OF THE DISTRICT.

The District is situate on a hill between the rivers Roding and Ching, the largest area being on the Eastern slope.

The subsoil is principally stiff clay, with pockets of gravel scattered over the District and a bed of gravel in the Roding valley, from which a supply is obtained for keeping the roads in repair.

The area of the District is about 899 acres (exclusive of areas covered by water and including about 150 acres of Forest land and roads).

The highest point of the District is 271 feet, and the lowest about 45 feet, above sea level.

The District is principally a residential one.

II. HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

During the year eleven new houses were erected, several plots on the Luctons and Russell House Estates having been built upon.

There are 18 more houses occupied this year than at the corresponding time last year (1907, 57 empty ; 1908, 50 empty).

The houses of the working classes are in the majority of cases in fair condition and moderately convenient : a few are in a dirty condition, chiefly due to the neglect of the tenants. The latter have been visited both by myself and the Inspector of Nuisances, and by constant worrying we have, I think, effected a slight improvement.

No houses have been closed during the year as being unfit for human habitation.

No action has been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

All Dwellings erected in the District during the year have been built under the supervision of the Council's Surveyor.

III. SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The Council's Sewage Works, situate on the banks of the Roding, take the sewage from the Eastern slope of the hill, that from the Western slope being treated at the Woodford Western Works.

The Council's Works consists of two settling tanks, primary and secondary filter beds, a storm overflow bed, and about 14 acres for treating resulting effluent.

During the year, one primary and one secondary bed have been cleaned out and refilled, and the Candy sprinkler which fed one of the secondary beds has been moved, the arms doubled in length, and two of the secondary beds have been converted into one and fed by the sprinkler.

The County Medical Officer of Health reported in September that "No effluent was obtainable here (Buckhurst Hill), and the river water was as pure below the Works as above them, so that no contamination was taking place here."

The explanation is that in summer time the land absorbs the whole of the effluent.

During the year the drains of 10 houses have been relaid or amended.

Sewers and house drains are generally in good condition.

A new road has been made on the Russell House Estate, and a surface water drain and sewer laid.

IV. REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

House refuse is collected by the Council's men once a week throughout the year ; 2287 yards were removed.

A house to house inspection of dustbins has been *made* during the year by the Inspector of Nuisances.

No complaints were received during the year with regard to the removal of refuse.

V. WATER SUPPLY.

All houses in the District obtain their water supply from the Metropolitan Water Board, from deep artesian wells at Waltham Abbey and Chingford Mill.

The water is hard, but the supply is constant and adequate.

VI. SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, DAIRIES, AND BAKEHOUSES.

The slaughter-houses, dairies, cowsheds, and bake-houses have been inspected regularly and at intervals both by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. One slaughter-house became vacant during the year, and at present has no tenant.

The bakehouses were as a rule clean and satisfactory.

The milk supply of the District is principally produced within the District and the surrounding Districts, one or two milk vendors living outside the District supply a few inhabitants. There is some difficulty in getting the owners of the Dairies and Milkshops to keep the milk covered from flies during the summer months.

VII. NUISANCES.

There were 20 complaints received and 7 nuisances detected without complaint ; 9 formal notices were served, and 23 of the 27 nuisances were abated, the remaining ones were being dealt with at the termination of the year.

VIII. OFFENSIVE TRADES AND LODGING HOUSES.

None in District.

IX. SCHOOLS.

No complaints as to sanitary conveniences received during the year.

I visited the Schools on several occasions in connection with an outbreak of measles, and found them in a satisfactory condition.

During the year several batches of children have been excluded from the Schools, to prevent the spread of minor Infectious Diseases.

X. INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

This year we were extremely fortunate with regard to Infectious Diseases, only one case each of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria and three of Erysipelas having been notified.

The case of Scarlet Fever was a child not belonging to the District, who developed the disease the day after arrival here and was removed to the Waltham Joint Hospital.

An outbreak of Measles occurred early in the summer, commencing during the Whitsuntide holidays. A great number of undetected contacts returned to the Public Elementary Schools and gave rise to cases in nearly every standard, and as there was no chance of stopping the Epidemic I did not recommend the closing of the Schools. The outbreak accounted for the death of four children.

There were four cases of death from Phthisis during the year, one being of a non-resident. In two cases, disinfection of rooms used and clothing were carried out.

Notification of Phthisis has not been adopted in the District. There is no Hospital accommodation for cases of Phthisis, either early or advanced.

XI. RAINFALL.

The rainfall for 1908 was slightly in excess of that for 1907.

Lat., 51 deg. 37 min. 30 sec. N. Long., 0 deg. 2 min. 5 sec. E.

		1907.	1908.
January	...	0.95 inches.	1.03 inches.
February	...	1.14 „	1.51 „
March	...	0.75 „	2.12 „
April	...	2.99 „	2.67 „
May	...	1.88 „	1.78 „
June	...	2.12 „	2.11 „
July	...	2.51 „	4.56 „
August	...	1.70 „	2.77 „
September	...	0.75 „	1.89 „
October	...	2.70 „	1.51 „
November	...	2.19 „	0.63 „
December	...	3.54 „	1.85 „
Total	...	<u>23.22</u> „	<u>24.43</u> „

XII. BIRTH AND DEATH RATE.

The Birth Rate is below the average for the past ten years, namely, 20 per 1000, the average for the previous ten years being 21.89 per 1000.

The total Deaths registered in the District exceed by far any previous year, there being 84 registered during the year, as against 55, the average for the past ten years. Nine of these were non-residents and are not included in estimating the net Death Rate. One death occurring in the Union Workhouse has to be added, giving a net Death Rate of 14.34 per 1000 against 10.98 per 1000, the average for the last ten years.

Twenty of the deaths were of children under one year and 30 were over 60 years of age.

XIII. INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Mortality is nearly three times as great this year as last, and nearly double that for the ten preceding years.

Of the 20 deaths under one year registered in the District, four were illegitimate children and seven were under one month old.

There was only one death from Epidemic Diarrhœa during the year.

Seven of the deaths were due to Premature Birth or antenatal causes.

There was one death during the year which was uncertified.

XIV. FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These have been systematically visited by the Sanitary Inspector and, from time to time, by myself. No defects were found.

There are no underground Bakehouses in the District.

The Register of Factories and Workshops is as follows :—

• FACTORIES.	WORKSHOPS.	DOMESTIC WORKSHOPS.
1 Brick.	4 Builders.	4 Dressmakers.
1 Printer.	1 Stonemason.	7 Cobblers.
	4 Blacksmiths.	2 Tailors.
	3 Bicycle Makers.	1 Laundry.
	1 Harness Maker.	
BAKEHOUSES.	2 Upholsterers.	
4 Retail.	1 Coachbuilder.	
	4 Dressmakers.	
	1 Tailor.	
	3 Laundries.	
	1 Shoemaker and Repairer.	
	1 Spice Merchant.	

I estimate the population at 5300: eleven new houses having been built and seven fewer of the old ones being vacant.

A Summary of the work done by the Sanitary Inspector, and Tables I., III., IV., and V. required by the Local Government Board (Table II. not being used, as there are no separate localities recognised in the District), are appended.

CHAS. R. DYKES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

TABLES OF POPULATION, BIRTH, AND OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1908 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	Average for last 10 years	1908
Population estimated to middle of each year ...	4700	4700	4700	4786	4900	5000	5050	5050	5150	5200	4923	5300
Number of Births ...	99	107	113	114	100	113	116	110	98	104	107	106
Birth Rate	21·06	22·76	24·04	23·81	20·41	22·60	22·97	21·78	19·02	20·5	21·89	20·00
Deaths under 1 year of age	15	16	11	13	11	10	8	12	8	5	11	20
Infantile Death Rate per 1000 Births registered	151·2	149·4	97·34	114·	110·	88·4	68·9	109·0	81·6	48	101·78	188·6
Total Deaths at all ages	50	76	63	53	58	46	53	63	47	40	55	84
Death Rate	10·63	16·17	13·40	11·07	11·84	9·20	10·49	12·47	9·12	7·6	11·19	15·84
Deaths in Public Insti- tutions in District ...	4	4	7	8	7	6	12	6	8	12	7	13
Deaths of Non-residents in Public Institutions registered in District...	4	4	0	6	2	5	11	5	5	6	5	9
Deaths of Residents in Public Institutions reg- istered beyond District	3	0	0	1	5	3	3	2	10	6	3	1
Nett Deaths at all ages	49	72	63	48	61	44	45	60	52	40	53	76
Nett Death Rate ...	10·50	15·32	13·40	10·02	12·45	8·80	8·91	11·88	10·97	7·6	10·98	14·34

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 899
 Total Population at all ages 4,786 } At last
 Number of Inhabited Houses 916 } Census.
 Average Number of Persons per House 5·22 }
 Lowest Level of Land in District above Ordnance Level 45·00 feet.
 Highest Level of Land in District above Ordnance Level 270 feet.
 Population—Estimated to middle of 1908 5,300.
 Subsoil almost entirely clay, with pockets of gravel in higher parts, and also a bed of
 gravel in the valley, covered with alluvial soil.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1907.

Notifiable Diseases.	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65
Diphtheria	1	—	1	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	3
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	5	—	1	1	—	3

Isolation Hospital—Waltham Joint Hospital, Waltham Holy Cross.

Total available beds, 40.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 4.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Deaths in Public Institutions.
Measles	4	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Epidemic Influenza	4	—	—	—	—	2	2	2
Diarrhoea	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	1
Other Tubercular Diseases	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant Disease... ..	5	—	—	—	1	3	1	1
Bronchitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	5	2	1	—	—	1	1	1
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Venereal Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Premature Birth	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heart Diseases	8	1	—	1	—	4	2	1
Septicæmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Senile Decay	10	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Diabetes	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Convulsions	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
Marasmus	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kidney Disease	5	—	—	—	—	3	2	—
All other causes	10	3	1	—	—	3	3	5
All causes	76	21	9	1	2	19	24	13

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Mth.	1-2 Mths.	2-3 Mths.	4-5 Mths.	5-6 Mths.	6-7 Mths.	7-8 Mths.	8-9 Mths.	10-12 Mths.	Total Deaths under 1 Yr.
All causes certified	5	1	1	7	1	1	4	2	1	—	1	2	19
„ uncerified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Diarrhoea, all forms	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
Premature Birth	3	—	—	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5
Congenital Defects	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Tuberculous Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
„ Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	3
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2
Other causes	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Total	5	1	1	7	1	1	4	2	1	1	1	2	20

Births in the year { Legitimate, 104.
 „ „ „ „ { Illegitimate, 2.

Deaths in the year of { Legitimate, 16.
 „ „ „ „ { Illegitimate, 4.

Deaths from all causes at all ages, 84.